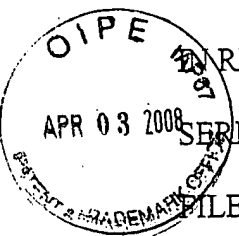


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Ki-Ho Baik et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/817,140

FILED: April 2, 2004

FOR: METHOD OF IMPROVING THE UNIFORMITY OF  
A PATTERNED RESIST ON A PHOTOMASK

§ GROUP ART UNIT: 1756

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EXAMINER: B.L. Raymond

Attorney Docket No.:

AM-8893

Date: October 9, 2007**DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.131**

Mail Stop AF  
Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Declaration under 37 CFR § 1.131 accompanies Response "B", which is in response to the Office Action mailed July 25, 2007.

We, Ki-Ho Baik, Mark A. Mueller, Stephen Osborne, Robert Dean, and Homer Lem hereby declare that we are joint inventors of the invention claimed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/817,140. We further declare that said invention was conceived and reduced to practice by us prior to January 6, 2004, which is the filing date of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/752,885, which was published on December 30, 2004, as U.S. Publication No. 2004/0266113.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

I hereby certify that this paper and any documents said to accompany this paper are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as U.S. EXPRESS MAIL NO. EB 450583747 US in an envelope addressed to : Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: October 9, 2007

*Shirley L. Church*  
Shirley L. Church, Reg. No. 31,858

In support of our Declaration, attached is a copy of the Invention Alert which preceded the present patent application. This Invention Alert was prepared by us and sent electronically to the docketing department of Applied Materials, Inc. on 11/21/2003. Subsequently, the Invention Alert was returned to us for signature, and signatures were obtained between December 17 and December 18, 2003. The signatures were witnessed on December 18, 2003, a Docket No. of 8893 was assigned, and the Invention Alert was scheduled to be sent out to an attorney for preparation of a patent application on that date.

Portions of the Invention Alert which pertain to conclusory dates of invention have been dedacted to protect the rights of the inventors.

We, the undersigned, each declare that all statements made herein are of his own knowledge true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Sec. 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

1) October 4, 2007

  
Ki-Ho Baik, Co-inventor

2) October \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

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Mark A. Mueller, Co-inventor

3) October \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

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Stephen Osborne, Co-inventor

4) October \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Dean, Co-inventor

5) October \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

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Homer Lem, Co-inventor